

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 OMB-01 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 AF-10 /102 W  
-----023485 190254Z /73

R 170100Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9272  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USLO PEKING  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0559/1

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, CH LA, US  
SUBJECT: CALL BY PRC AMBASSADOR

SUMMARY: IN A MAY 16 TOUR D'HORIZON, PRC AMBASSADOR  
HSU HUANG SAID THAT NO CHINESE HAD RETURNED TO CHINA FROM  
SAIGON, THOUGH SOME HAD FROM THE VIET NAM-CHINA BORDER  
AREA. HE DISCOUNTED REPORTS OF PRC-SRV BORDER CLASHES.  
HSU HUANG EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR ASEAN AND  
CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN CONTINUING CLOSE U.S.-THAI  
RELATIONS. HE ASKED ABOUT THE MONDALE TRIP. HE SAID  
THERE WERE SOME 500 CHINESE WORKING ON AID PROJECTS TO  
NORTHERN LAOS. HE ONCE MORE MENTIONED CHINA'S INTEREST  
IN EVENTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

1. PRC AMBASSADOR HSU HUANG PAID A RETURN COURTESY CALL  
ON ME MAY 16. THE OFFICE VISIT PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY  
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FOR A GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON.

2. I ASKED HSU HUANG ABOUT A HONG KONG AFP REPORT OF  
FIGHTING IN NORTHERN LAOS. HE SAID HE KNEW NOTHING OF  
IT AND PUT IT IN THE SAME CATEGORY AS AFP REPORTS OF  
FIGHTING ALONG THE CHINESE-VIETNAMESE BORDER. HE SAID  
THERE WAS NO TRUTH IN SUCH REPORTS AT ALL.

3. I ASKED HSU HUANG ABOUT REPORTS OF OVERSEAS CHINESE FROM SAIGON WANTING TO RETURN TO CHINA. HE SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE WERE "OPPRESSING" THE SAIGON CHINESE, BUT SO FAR NONE HAD RETURNED TO CHINA. HE HAD READ, HOWEVER, REPORTS OF CHINESE FLEEING VIET NAM BY BOAT AND GOING TO THAILAND, HONG KONG, MALAYSIA, AND AUSTRALIA. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION, HE SAID THAT NO SUCH BOAT PEOPLE HAD APPEARED ON HAINAN ISLAND.

4. HSU HUANG SAID THAT SOME CHINESE RESIDENTS OF VIET NAM HAD RETURNED TO CHINA BUT THAT THEY HAD ALL BEEN RESIDENTS OF THE NORTH VIET NAM-CHINA BORDER AREA.

5. I ASKED HSU HUANG WHAT CHINA THOUGHT OF THE VIETNAMESE-CAMBODIAN CONFLICT. I SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES THOUGHT THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT A REGION WHICH HAD KNOWN SO MUCH WAR STILL SEEMED UNABLE TO HAVE PEACE. HSU HUANG DID NOT ANSWER MY QUESTION DIRECTLY. HE INSTEAD SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT ALL THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA WORK TOGETHER. HE SAID THAT FOR THIS REASON, CHINA STRONGLY SUPPORTED ASEAN AND HOPED THAT IT COULD HELP FORGE A STRONG REGIONAL BLOC TO RESIST SOVIET EFFORTS TO INTERFERE IN THE AREA.

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6. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, HSU HUANG SAID THAT THE SOVIET TROOPS WHO HAD ENTERED CHINA ALONG THE USSURI RIVER HAD WITHDRAWN AND THAT THE INCIDENT WAS NOW OVER.

7. HSU HUANG ASKED ME ABOUT THE MONDALE TRIP. I SAID THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT HAD HAD USEFUL CONVERSATIONS WITH THE LEADERS HE HAD MET. I EXPLAINED THAT THE TRIP WAS DESIGNED TO SHOW OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF EAST ASIA. HSU HUANG ASKED ABOUT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THAILAND. I EXPLAINED THAT WE HAD ALWAYS HAD IMPORTANT SECURITY AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN THAILAND, BUT THAT IN THE PAST THE SECURITY INVOLVEMENT HAD BEEN GREATER THAN THE ECONOMIC. NOW THE ECONOMIC INVOLVEMENT WAS GREATER, THOUGH THE SECURITY RELATIONSHIP THROUGH THE MANILA PACT WAS STILL IMPORTANT. THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS MAKING UP THE THAI-U.S. RELATIONSHIP HAD CHANGED, BUT OUR TIES WERE STILL AS CLOSE AND AS FRIENDLY AS EVER. HSU HUANG SEEMED QUITE CONCERNED OVER THAI-U.S. RELATIONS AND KEPT NODDING DURING MY RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION.

8. HSU HUANG ASKED IF WE HAD ELEVEN AMERICANS IN

VIENTIANE. I TOLD HIM WE CURRENTLY HAD ONLY EIGHT, PLUS ONE VISITOR AND ABOUT 40 LAO EMPLOYEES. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, HE SAID THAT THERE WERE 33 TO 35 CHINESE IN HIS EMBASSY BUT NO LAO. IN NORTHERN LAOS, HE SAID THERE WERE ABOUT 500 CHINESE WORKING ON VARIOUS AID PROJECTS TOGETHER WITH LAO COUNTERPARTS AND WORKERS. HE SAID THAT THE CHINESE ROAD BUILDING PROGRAM WAS FINISHED EXCEPT FOR THE NAM BAC-LUANG PRABANG LINK WITH TOUTE 13. THE MAIN CHINESE AID PROJECT AT THE MOMENT WAS A TEXTILE MILL AT MUONG SAI.

9. HSU HUANG ASKED ME ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SHABA. I BRIEFED HIM ON WHAT I COULD REMEMBER FROM VOA REPORTS. HE EXPRESSED HIS USUAL HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST  
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IN SOVIET-CUBAN OPERATIONS AND POSSIBLE WESTERN RESPONSES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. I EXPLAINED THAT

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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENTIANE 0559

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EVEN THOUGH WE WERE CURRENTLY ONLY PLANNING TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ECONOMIC AID PROGRAMS IN SOMALIA, AN INVASION OF SOMALIA FROM OUTSIDE WOULD CREATE A NEW SITUATION. HSU HUANG SAID HE HAD BEEN AMUSED TO NOTE THAT THE NEW AFGHAN PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN A PRESS ATTACHE AT THE AFGHAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. I SAID I GATHERED THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN KABUL WAS COMMUNIST BUT THAT THERE WERE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF COMMUNISTS IN AFGHANISTAN.

10. BIO NOTE: HSU HUANG SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH, BUT HE APPEARED TO BE HAVING DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING ME. ABOUT HALF WAY THROUGH THE CONVERSATION HE STARTED USING THE LAO-CHINESE INTERPRETER WHO HAD COME WITH HIM. ROBERTS

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Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
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